

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
November 18, 2015

Present: Bill Lennon, Lynn Stoddard, Paul Shapiro, Kay Holt, George Rawitscher, Joyce Rawitscher, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by chairperson Stoddard.

The approval of the October 14, 2015 minutes was deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Stoddard introduced the Sustainable Jersey rating system that provides an umbrella of sustainable actions communities in New Jersey can take to become certified. The committee discussed the benefits and barriers to having a similar rating system for Connecticut communities. It was suggested working with the Conference of Connecticut Municipalities and the regional Council of Governments to develop a rating system similar to New Jersey's.

After describing the Connecticut Green Bank commercial solar finance program to the committee, Walton asked if the sustainability committee would be interested in sending a cover letter to Mansfield businesses introducing them to the program with background information. There was concern about a town committee endorsing a program. It was suggested that the Downtown Partnership might forward this information to businesses in town.

There was further discussion on ways to foster environmentally conscious business practices. It was suggested having a recognition program with a contest around Earth Day.

Rawitscher updated the committee on the Climate Action Task Force activities. He expressed interest in sharing a hopeful article related to climate change by journalist Mark Hertzgaard. Walton will send the article to members.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton